



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Chief Deputy Director of
Community and Senior Services
Director of Children and Family Services
Director of Health Services
Director of Mental Health
Director of Public Social Services
Interim Chief Probation Officer

At its meeting held January 4, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“Los Angeles County has the largest homeless population in the Nation. In an effort to comprehensively address homeless issues the County and City of Los Angeles initiated a campaign called ‘Bring Los Angeles Home.’ This campaign brings together partners from government, business, social services, faith-based organizations, and the homeless/formerly homeless community. One of the most important and cost-effective strategies to end homelessness is to prevent people from becoming homeless.

“Many people who are at great risk of becoming homeless receive, or are eligible to receive, services and assistance from County departments. Examples of those at risk for homelessness include foster youth, incarcerated individuals, adults and youth with mental health issues, individuals with disabilities, and people who are very poor. In the interest of reducing homelessness and ultimately ending homelessness in Los Angeles County, County departments must take a proactive role in helping meet the needs of their homeless clients and in implementing policies and discharge procedures that prevent future homelessness.

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“Additionally, the Federal Government requires that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority include in its application for *Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Funds* a description of efforts to ensure that a ‘discharge policy for persons leaving publicly funded institutions or systems of care is being developed and implemented to prevent the discharge of persons from immediately resulting in homelessness and requiring assistance from homeless programs.’”

Therefore, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Request the Directors of Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, Mental Health and Health Services, including Public Health’s Alcohol and Drug Program, the Chief Deputy Director of Community and Senior Services, the Interim Chief Probation Officer and the Sheriff to report back to the Board within 60 days on the following:
 - Current discharge policies and procedures within Los Angeles County departments, which ensure that persons are discharged to appropriate housing situations and are connected to services as needed; and
 - Any barriers to successful implementation of such policies and procedures; or
 - A plan to modify or create policies and practices that do not contribute to homelessness, including a timeline for the Department to implement such plan, if the Department currently does not have policies and procedures to ensure discharge of persons to appropriate housing situations and needed services; and
2. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer’s Services Integration Branch to:
 - Convene one or more meetings of the above referenced Departments along with the Community Development Commission, Regional Planning and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, to discuss coordination of the discharge practices among County departments and enhancement of service integration for the benefit of at-risk and homeless people; and
 - Report back to the Board within 120 days on the results of the meetings.

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Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“Homelessness is an increasingly pervasive problem throughout the County of Los Angeles. While traditionally the homeless population has been regarded as affecting primarily single males in the downtown skid row area, there is evidence to suggest that families with children are also increasingly becoming homeless throughout other areas in the County of Los Angeles.

“In light of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program and other programs that were established to protect the general welfare of children, no child should be subjected to homelessness. The impacts of homelessness on a child may cause irreparable injury to the child’s education, health and overall quality of life. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to continue taking all necessary steps to ensure that the CalWORKs Program effectively prevents at-risk families from becoming homeless. On December 28, 2004, DPSS issued an action plan to enhance services to homeless families. However, this plan by DPSS did not quantify the problem and it does not provide a long-term solution.”

Therefore, Supervisor Burke made a suggestion that Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s motion be amended to instruct the Director of Public Social Services, working in concert with other agencies, to do the following:

1. Quantify and analyze the number of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program families that are currently homeless throughout the County of Los Angeles;
2. Develop a more extensive plan of action to implement safeguards, including direct payment of rent, to protect children who are eligible for TANF from becoming homeless; and analyze those no longer eligible in order to determine a pilot program to assure housing and food;
3. Examine the impact of noncompliance sanctions upon CalWORKs families to determine whether these may be contributing factors toward families and children becoming homeless throughout the County; and
4. Report back its finding and recommendations on these specific issues within 60 days.

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky accepted Supervisor Burke's amendment.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich made a suggestion that Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion be amended to:

1. Request the Directors of Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, Mental Health and Health Services, including Public Health's Alcohol and Drug Program, the Chief Deputy Director of Community and Senior Services, the Interim Chief Probation Officer and the Sheriff to provide quarterly reports to the Board regarding the housing plan for discharged clients such as emancipating youth, inmates leaving jail and welfare recipients with no permanent home; and
2. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to include in his report back a housing plan from the providers who served homeless clients in addition to the County departments.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky accepted Supervisor Antonovich's amendments.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion as amended, seconded by Supervisor Burke, was unanimously carried.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
County Counsel
Director of Planning
Director of Public Health
Executive Director of the Community
Development Commission
Assistant Administrative Officer, Chief Administrative
Office's Service Integration Branch

Letters sent to:

Sheriff
Executive Director, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority